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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 27 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In the past year I have sent numerous letters alerting the Security Council to the dangerous and destabilizing behaviour of Hizbullah in southern Lebanon. Every day, new evidence emerges that Hizbullah, an internationally recognized terrorist group, is using dozens of villages in southern Lebanon as military staging grounds, civilian centres as weapons depots and its people as human shields.

In the Shiite village of Muhaybib there are only 90 houses, but there are 9 arms depots, 5 rocket-launching sites, signs for 3 underground tunnels, 4 infantry positions, 3 anti-tank positions and a command post — all put there by Hizbullah. The village of Chaqra is home to 4,000 people and 400 military sites installed by Hizbullah.

On 22 May, the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Safir* published an elaborate report on Hizbullah, documenting the organization's extensive military infrastructure in southern Lebanon. The report revealed Hizbullah's varied methods for bypassing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in order to upgrade its military capabilities, including the existence of a network of underground tunnels and ready-to-use rockets in proximity to the Blue Line (see annex I). At a rally held on 25 May, Hizbullah publicly displayed military armaments in Nabatiyah, southern Lebanon, in another brazen violation of the resolution (see annex II).

Hizbullah has amassed over 100,000 missiles and rockets in a blatant violation of resolution 1701 (2006). The presence of these missiles has been lately confirmed by the senior military adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, Yahya Rahim Safavi, who clearly stated, "The Zionists are well aware of the capabilities of Iran and Hizbullah. Hizbullah has 80,000 missiles aimed towards Tel Aviv and Haifa".

By embedding its military infrastructure among the civilian population and pointing its weapons at Israeli cities and towns, Hizbullah is committing a double war crime, endangering the lives of both Lebanese and Israeli civilians.

Hizbullah's intentions are clear. Its leaders openly boast that these missiles can target any point in Israel. The threats are very real and the danger is imminent.

Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for any attack originating from its territory and reserves the right to exercise its right to self-defence and to take all necessary measures to protect its population.

15-08316 (E) 020615

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This Council has ignored its obligations for far too long. Hizbullah must be publicly and unequivocally condemned. I urge the Security Council to demand that Lebanon abide by its international commitments to fully implement resolution 1701 (2006). Hizbullah must be disarmed.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 27 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Sophisticated tunnels, constant readiness, five seconds to rain rockets down on Israel

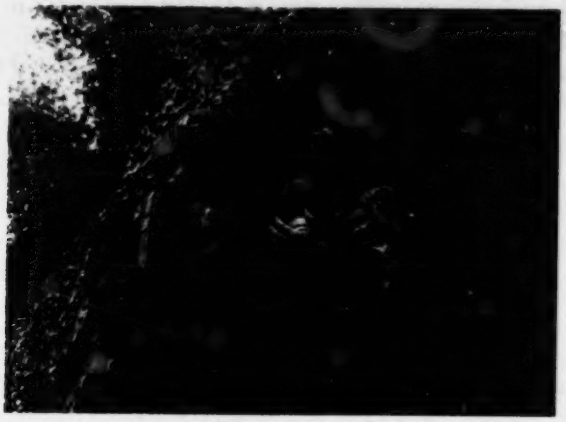
Al-Safir with the Resistance in the Land of Victory in the Homeland

by Elie Ferzli (22 May 2015)

(Selected excerpts from the article translated into English)

... The adventure began in Tyre; the brothers welcomed me. We transferred to a four-wheel drive vehicle and drove to a house that is known to the residents as the local headquarters of Hizbullah. I was required to change clothes to a military uniform. There is no other choice for anyone who is visiting the "resistance" but to wear a camouflage uniform that will blend in with the colours of the earth and the trees, so that the surveillance flights of Israel can't identify them or other targets of the organization.

"Haj Kamil", who has just returned from Iraq, is wearing a special silver ring. His friend "Abu Mahadi" tells the story of the ring and says that it's a special gift given to him by Hassan Nasrallah as an award for his outstanding performance in the July war in 2006. "Haj Kamil" is one of the most professional rocket-firing personnel on the Western front with Israel.



Two resistance fighters guarding a rocket launcher (Mustafa Jamal al-Din)

If we weren't right next to the car, we would not have seen it. Its colour blends in with the trees. This is not an ordinary car, but a rocket launcher that carries 12 rockets ready to be fired, with another batch of rockets next to it. "Abu Ali" is in charge of this equipment. He came back from Syria recently and he says that he is ready to go back if he is called upon.

All the fighters of the "resistance" are ready to go to Syria and they are enthusiastic about the idea. As one fighter said, "We can no longer speak of separate fronts". The things that Hizbullah says to the press are essentially the same things that the fighters in the forward positions say. The fronts in Syria, Iraq and even in Yemen are a continuation of the central front against Israel. According to "Abu Mahdi", Israel before Hizbullah widened the area of combat and its fingerprints or those of its allies are to be found everywhere.

Therefore, according to "Abu Mahdi", the only option available to the organization is to fight Israel in every place that it is found and the southern Lebanon front is the central Front. The presence of the organization in Syria is not at the expense of its presence in the heart of southern Lebanon. "The enemy knows this. Otherwise he would have exploited the opportunity".

"Haj Sirajh" says that Hizbullah ambushed Israel three times recently:

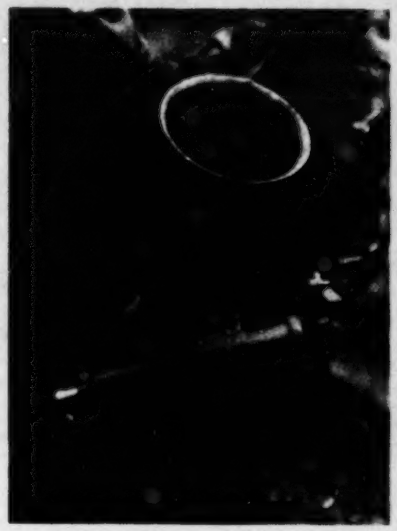
(1) When a unit of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for special operations infiltrated into Lebanon and the organization set an ambush, even though the battle for Qusayr was at its height;

(2) When an IDF patrol was hit by a bomb placed by the "resistance" in the Shab'a Farms. This was in response to Israel blowing up a listening device that had been placed in the land communications network of the resistance while a resistance fighter was working to dismantle it in the town of Adlun;

(3) When the enemy tried to change the rules of the game and struck at members of the organization in Qunaytirah. This elicited a firm response in the Shab'a Farms in order to demonstrate that the "resistance" in Lebanon is on the alert.

Regarding the last incident, according to "Haj Sirajh", the organization was even ready for the possibility that things might escalate into a war.

At the spot can be seen a fortified position and next to it an artillery position of 120 millimetre calibre aimed at a target in occupied Palestine. The rocket can be fired in less than five seconds.



A mortar positioned towards its target...waiting for the command
(Mustafa Jamal al-Din)

All the forward positions are connected by a network of communication lines (the "resistance" fighters are proud of this, as an important weapon against Israel) so that when the command is received from the leadership, all that remains to be done is to bring the rocket from the nearby ammunition depot, load it and fire, and then to take cover in the tunnel near the position.

The tunnel is another story because it is located in a very sensitive outpost along the border. Although Israel discovered the technology of the tunnels in the second Lebanon war, the methods have significantly developed since then: the concrete is different, the ventilation system has changed, the methods for storing the ammunition have changed and the rations are different. Electric generators have been installed underground to supply electricity 24 hours a day.

The fighters no longer eat from cans. Experts in nutrition prepare the food needed for storage in order to provide the fighters during a war with the needed energy and nutrition for several weeks.

In addition to the rations that a "resistance" fighter receives, he gets three cans, on which are written the contents as well as their nutritional value. He eats these meals in the time allotted in advance to provide a balanced meal. These allocations are only for wartime. When the fighters are on alert or in training, they receive regular food.

The readiness of the organization hints that a war could break out at any moment. The food is ready. The logistical unit has distributed the rations among the positions and bunkers. The supplies are changed every five months before they are outdated.

A resistance fighter in a tunnel near the border (Mustafa Jamal al-Din)

The air in the tunnels is like the air outside. There are devices to adjust the humidity to prevent rusting of the iron. There are emergency exits to the right and left.

The rockets are wrapped in airtight nylon and there is a material to soak up moisture. The men in charge have not neglected to have knives nearby so that the fighter can open them quickly in time of war.

Whoever thinks that the fighters are bored and waiting with nothing to do is mistaken. The war can break out at any time. Therefore, new fortifications and tunnels are being built around the clock. Tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of rockets are ready to fire. The tunnels are dug by hand with primitive tools in order not to draw undue attention.

The soil that is being taken from the tunnel is filled into bags which are taken into remote areas. Then the bags are emptied and the soil from them is spread in the fields and then covered by leaves in order to blend in with nature and not draw the enemy's attention.

Whoever visits the southern border and meets the "resistance" fighters understands that the main intention of Hizbullah to deal with the danger of Israel has not changed. As soon as a fighter who left for a mission in Syria has completed his mission, he returns to his position in the southern front. There is no vacuum in the hierarchy of Hizbullah even for a few minutes. Every fighter is given the alternative to go to Syria or take leave. The central senior commanders are always in the southern front. Sayyid Jihad and his team are on the spot. They are responsible in their sector for dealing with any possible attack. The same for the rocket force.

There are ambushes prepared. Each one is part of the overall system that includes prepared bombs, booby traps and anti-tank and support fire.

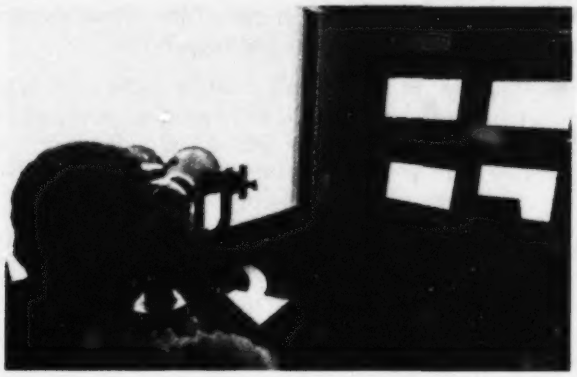
From the first day of the war in July 2006, a "cold war" of a different sort began between Hizbullah and Israel, and it still continues; a war of intelligence that never stops, day or night. In a war like this, Israel still has the advantage, but Hizbullah has succeeded in winning a place for itself among the most significant players in the world in intelligence and security.

The "resistance" has established an intelligence system that sometimes is technologically superior to Israel's. For example, the programme to deal with the incident of Israeli forces entering Labbunah near Naqurah, a distance of 550 metres from the border, how to act against them militarily in an area of UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] activity. Hizbullah intelligence is proud of the Labbunah action and considers it a warning to Israel. Confidence in the ability of the "resistance" to gather intelligence is very high, so much so, that a fighter doesn't hesitate to state, "We can count the breaths of the enemy".

In this context, Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) can no longer be considered an obstacle to Hizbullah. At first, Hizbullah was unsure about deciding how to act: how to hide from the eyes of the international force of UNIFIL and to comply with the resolution that forbids the public display of unofficial weapons south of the Litani River. In the end, things changed. If it had been easy for the Israelis to monitor the movements of the "resistance", their task became much more difficult after Hizbullah's change to clandestine activity.

Palestine from this apartment: from a village near the border, this apartment looks very ordinary from the outside. The windows face occupied Palestine. At the entrance to the house is a dark-coloured curtain that hides the apartment behind the door. Behind it is a small room of no more than 4 square metres. In the room are four cameras that can identify targets up to 15 kilometres away. The cameras are pointed at Israeli military bases and at several vital roads that any military vehicle must use. The pictures appear on four screens in the room. Just as the rocket launchers are distributed along the border, so too are the intelligence-gathering centres and reconnaissance points. Each centre has its geographic sector, for which it is responsible. The fighters don't rely only on the cameras. They also have telescopes, which they use regularly.

According to orders, the room is not to be left unmanned for any reason, even if there is no visibility due to fog. There are also orders which specify when the room is to be evacuated in an emergency and transferred to an alternative site. Orders specify what is to be taken and what left behind. Every reconnaissance point that operates in ordinary times has a secret alternative location for use in wartime.



A Hizbullah monitoring room in the south (Mustafa Jamal al-Din)

Hidden cameras: the rooms also have night vision equipment. In the dark, hidden cameras near the border are activated. They are connected to the monitoring rooms, which receive the pictures through a special instrument.

Due to the great responsibility borne by the fighter who is in charge of the monitoring, the length of a shift is only 2 hours, followed by 6, 8 or even 10 hours of rest, based on the number of colleagues who can take his place. This is usually for five days a week. The "resistance" fighter chooses for himself what to eat. His budget is $150 for five days of activity per week.

The fighter in the monitoring room documents every movement he sees in order to analyse it and to connect it to other information. The analysis is sent by means of a special programme to an evaluation centre, which receives all the information that is collected by different methods: on land, in the air and, sometimes, by sea. The lookout not only provides information, but also analyses it.

The monitoring room coordinates with the operations room, the evaluation centre and other monitoring rooms, and with lookouts in the field, whose job it is to find an explanation for every bit of information that cannot be explained by technology. They go out into the field with telescopes, compasses and cameras to challenge the enemy publicly, face to face.

Al-Haj Kamal remembers when he went with another brother on a patrol along the border. One of the officers of the enemy saw them and said, "What is this impertinence?" In another incident, a number of "resistance" fighters were on a patrol along the border, opposite an Israeli position. The soldiers were asleep. When they woke up, they were surprised to find Hizbullah fighters opposite them. The fighters laughed and said that they were waiting for the Israeli officer to tell him that his men had been asleep. They waited for the officer but an Israeli patrol tried to photograph them, so they had to withdraw.

http://assafir.com/Article/8/421245

http://assafir.com/Article/8/421089

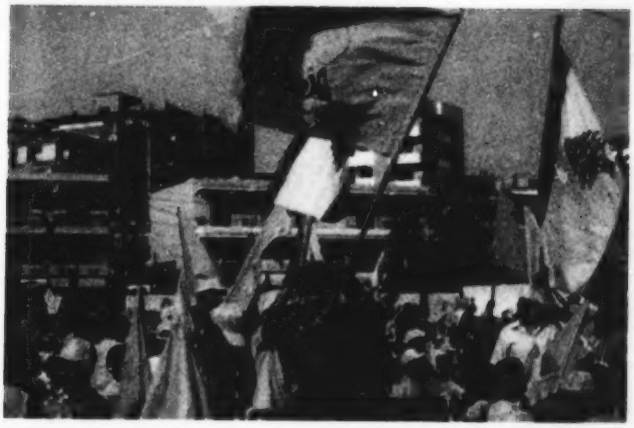
(The original article is in Arabic)

Elie Ferzli is a Lebanese journalist and politician. He served as Vice-President of the Lebanese Parliament (1992-2004). He writes articles for the Lebanese daily newspaper *Al-Safir*.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 27 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Hizbullah's display of military armaments during a rally in Nabatiyah, southern Lebanon, 25 May 2015

http://www.media.alahednews.com.lb/galldetails.php?cid=1255&items=12&page=1



Hizbullah troops stand next to a rocket launcher during a Liberation Day ceremony in Nabatiyah, southern Lebanon, Sunday, 25 May 2015 (The Daily Star/Mohammed Zaatari)

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2015/May-25/299224-lebanon-reiterates-right-to-liberate-lands-still-occupied-by-israel.ashx